

## **REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 19, 2003. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Following the previous Office Action, the claims stand as follows:

Claims 1-5 and 14 are rejected; and

Claims 6-8 and 10-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, the limitations of claim 6 have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 14. Thus, claim 1 is now clearly allowable. Also, claim 14 in combination with the limitations of claim 6, should now be allowable since claim 14 includes at least the elements recited in original claim 1.

Further, new independent claim 15 includes all of the limitations of original claims 1, 9 and 10. As indicated above, claim 10 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and therefore, new independent claim 15 is clearly allowable.

Further, claims 2-5, 7-8 and 11-13 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on an allowable independent claim.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Isao SUZUKI

By: 

Michael S. Huppert  
Registration No. 40,268  
Attorney for Applicant

MSH/kjf  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
February 19, 2004